

# THE DESERET WEEKLY,

PUBLISHED BY  
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY,  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50  
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50  
IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . March 28, 1891.

## CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-first Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will commence at ten o'clock, on Saturday morning, April 4th, 1891, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City.

All Officers and Members of the Church are cordially invited to be present at the meetings.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency.

## COLLAPSE OF A SHAMEFUL PROSECUTION.

THE closing scene in a broad "Liberal" farce was played in the Third District Court March 18th. The cases against ex-Mayor Armstrong and ex-Marshall Solomon were dismissed on motion of the District Attorney. These were the last of the trumped-up charges against prominent members of the People's Party which were made for political effect during the last municipal campaign.

The accusations against the Mayor and Marshall were all of a piece with those connected with the Hydraulic Canal Company. There was nothing in them. The "Liberal" individuals who moved in these matters knew there was nothing in them. The "Liberal" grand jury which found the indictments knew there was nothing in them. The "Liberal" scribes who tried to manufacture public sentiment against the accused gentlemen, on account of these groundless charges, knew there was nothing in them. The whole proceedings were a prostitution of the powers of the law and shameful to the last degree.

The pretext on which the charges against the former Mayor and Marshall of the city was based, is clearly shown up in the letter of the ex-Marshall which will be found in another column. The facts there related cannot be denied. If the promoters of the

prosecution against these gentlemen are not ashamed of the farce they have played and the fizzle they have made of it, that is because shame is a feeling of which they have become incapable.

But there is a serious side to this batch of buncombe, falsehood and misuse of official influence and authority. Messrs. Armstrong and Solomon have been put to immense trouble and expense in this vexatious and vicious pretended prosecution. They are injured materially. That may be some satisfaction to their accusers. But it is a wrong which they should not be made to suffer from without some redress. What course they will take in relation to the matter we do not know. But it is clear that they ought not to be made to bear alone the burden of the expense which has been incurred in defending their cases during the many months in which they have been pending.

The idea of prosecuting public officers for diligently endeavoring, by lawful means, to suppress immorality and disorder is something peculiar, and can only be accounted for by the fact that it was a "Liberal" political notion. The same may be said in reference to the Hydraulic Canal Company cases. They were all attempts to injure the reputation of gentlemen whose character was above reproach, and fling "Liberal" mud at the People's Party.

We are glad that an end has come to the legal farce which has been played for the intended benefit of the "Liberal" party, and trust that all decent "Liberals" appreciate the acting of the chief performers, and have formed a correct estimate of their worth. We consider the whole business an outrage, not only upon the gentlemen who have been assailed and put to needless trouble and expense, but upon the public and the means intended to promote justice and protect citizens from wrong, which have been perverted into a vehicle of injustice and evil, and used for party ends, the defamation of individual character and the injury of the whole community.

The proceedings were terminated without noise and without any attempt at justification. It was acknowledged that no criminal intent had been manifested, that therefore there was really no case against the defendants; and the curtain was rung down over the affair to shut it out of sight with as little ceremony as possible, and no blast from the band or flourish of legal trumpet drew public attention to the dead issue. But it is a matter of record, nevertheless, and will do to file away for future reference.

## IT WILL NOT DO.

THE "Liberal" City Council are making a big and black record. If they had set themselves to the task of bringing odium upon their party they could not have done more in this direction than they have accomplished during the year they have been in office. The lavish expenditure of public funds; the oppressive taxation; the failure to accomplish anything promised to the public when they were struggling for office; the pot-house style of their personal disputes when in public council; the incapacity and dilatoriness they have displayed; the readiness they have manifested to play into the hands of speculators, and their complete disregard of the public wishes; have disgusted the community and principally the best people of the party that put them in place.

The last movement they have made is perhaps one of the worst. It is the pretended change of site for the public building. Very few citizens believe it is anything but an excuse for postponing any work whatever upon the structure. The grave announcement of the Mayor that credit was due to the Council for its public improvements, among which was the expenditure of over eleven thousand dollars for city building—which consists entirely of a hole in the ground—was a piece of grim humor that the taxpayers could properly appreciate. And that the hole in the ground is all of the city and county building which will be seen during the incumbency of the present Council is a general public belief.

If there was any real intention to go on with the building, work would have been commenced on the foundation at the site already selected. Discussion had been ample over the proper location for the building. It was decided that the spot where the excavation was begun was the best for public business, being so near the centre. There is no earthly solid reason for a change. The squares ought to be left for the purpose originally intended, which in spite of lawyers' squabbles, everybody knows was for places of public resort, breathing spots, to be beautified and adorned according to the means of the municipality. The sight chosen is good enough. The Eighth Ward Square, apart from other reasons, is too far away from the centre of trade and traffic.

If this change is insisted upon, trouble will arise. The courts will be appealed to. Further delays will follow. The eleven thousand dollar hole in the ground will continue to be all there is